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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of Sweden

Paper submitted by Sweden**

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***National standardization and names authorities***

As a result of a White Paper the four institutes of place-name research in Sweden were reorganized in 1993. They are now a part of a new authority called the *Institute for Language and Folklore Research* (Sw. *Språk- och folkminnesinstitutet, SOFI*), which has its central office in Uppsala.

In order to meet the need for an advisory service as regards the care, preservation and spelling of place-names a position as place-name consultant was established in 1996 at SOFI in Uppsala.

As of the 1st of January 1996, the *National Land Survey of Sweden* (*NLS*; Sw. *Lantmäteriverket*) merged with the *Central Board for Real Estate Data* to form a new government authority. Since 1974, the geographical names authority has been the responsibility of the NLS. The function as place-names authority is exercised by the *Geographical Information Division* (Sw. *Enheten för landskapsinformation*). This division has the responsibility for the standardization of place-names at the NLS and for the contents of the place-name data base. The division also administers the *Place-Names Advisory Board*.

***Registers, gazetteers and toponymic data files***

In September 1995, the computerization of the new Swedish real estate register was completed. More than 3,2 million real properties are stored in this register, each with its unique designation. Such a designation always consists of the name of the municipality and the name of the area where the unit is situated (village, farm, urban district or block). The register contains 101 000 area names (other than block names), all of them linguistically examined and adopted before being stored in the base. As most of the names in the real estate register are the names of villages and farms, most of the settlement names in Sweden are stored in the register.

The place-names data base of the NLS contains up to now all 410 000 place-names shown on the Topographic Map, that is the Green Map Series 1:50 000 and the mountain version in 1:100 000. This year a project has started to develope the register. The purpose is to store also the remaining names of the official maps of Sweden and to make the register technically more up to date. When this work is finished the data base will contain approximately 1 million place-names in their standardized form. The data base serves as a reference source for the official maps and for other purposes.

The Swedish Institute for Language and Folklore Research has started a project in order to computerize the collections at its four institutes of place-name research. The information on each of about eight million register cards will be scanned and indexed. The data base will contain a picture of each card and a registration connected to it. When the project is completed by the end of the century the aim is to make the computerized information available on Internet. The name of the project is the *Swedish Place-Name Data Base* (Sw. *Svensk ortnamnsdatabas, SODA*).

A *Dictionary of Swedish Place-Names* (Sw.*Svenskt ortnamnslexikon, SOL*) is in preparation. It is intended to be a concise one-volume dictionary for the general reader with an interest in place-names, containing short articles on 6 000 - 7 000 place-names in Sweden, including Sami and Finnish. The dictionary is edited at the Institute of Place-Name Research in Uppsala and the work is carried out in cooperation between Uppsala University and the Institute for Language and Folklore Research.

***Names in multilingual areas***

In 1996, approximately 4 700 Sami place-names in the Swedish Lule-Sami area were examined and written in the Lule-Sami orthography. These names is printed in the map 1:250 000, which was revised in 1996 and 1997. The Institute of Place-Name Research in Umeå in cooperation with that in Uppsala, Umeå University , the NLS and representatives for the Sami has started a project in 1997 to collect Sami place-names and to present more of the Sami place-names in their standardized orthography in the maps. The standardized Lule-Sami orthography is not yet introduced in the official maps. However, this orthography will be introduced in the next issue of the mountain version of the Topographic Map.

***List of country names***

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the the Swedish Language Council has recently (1996) compiled a new version of a list of country namnes in Swedish. The list also shows the nationality nouns and the nationality adjectives. The main purpose of the list is to be an internal guideline.

***Toponymic education and practice***

Within the National Land Survey there are in-house training programmes to meet the need from its staff. The participants are partly cartographic field staff, both those involved in editing the text on the national map series and those busy with cartographic data bases. Toponymic courses are also held for staff occupied by real estate formation and registration.

With the aim of improving the local awareness and knowledge of place-names a project called the *Place-Name Line* (Sw. *Ortnamnslinjen*) has been started by the Place-Names Advisory Board. It is planned to begin with a pilot study in 1998, and modern technology (help desk, science line) plays an important role together with the national place-name expertise, when it comes to information and education.

One of the most central tasks for the local bodies responsible for place-name matters is the new addressing system. The National Land Survey and the Institute for Language and Folklore Research are supporting the local authorities by giving lectures at conferences dealing with these issues.

***Meetings, Conferences and Publications***

In 1992 the NLS published the first issue of a series dealing with geographical names and the preservation of names (Sw. *Ortnamn och namnvård*). Up to now four issues are published, nr 1, *Place-names, real estate formation and real estate registration* (Sw. *Ortnamn, fastighetsbildning och fastighetsregistrering*), nr 2, *Recording geographical names* (Sw. *Att uppteckna ortnamn*), nr 3, *Sami geographical names on mountain maps* (Sw. *Samiska ortnamn på fjällkartorna*) and nr 4, *The property designation reform* (Sw. *Fastighetsbeteckningsreformen*).

In May 1993 a conference on the need for a place-names act called the *Culture of place-names* (Sw. *Ortnamnskultur*) was held in Stockholm, arranged by the Central Office of National Antiquities. All the Nordic countries were invited. The papers from the conference are published in a report called *Place-names worthy of care and preservation* (Sw. *Ortnamn värda att vårda*). In April 1994 there was another meeting at the Institute of Place-Name Research in Uppsala on the same theme. The report from this one-day symposium is titled *Is there a need for a place-name act?* (Sw. *Behövs en ortnamnslag?*)

In close connection to these conferences was that a governmental committee was appointed in 1994 to work on, among other issues, the question of a Swedish act on the preservation of inherited place-names in official use. Two years later a report was published with the title *The preservation and protection of the cultural environment* (Sw. *Skyddet av kulturmiljön*). The committee suggests that a consideration provision regarding place-names should be included in the *Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds* (Sw. *Kulturminneslagen*). Such a provision should give priority to established names but it should also demand respect for correct linguistic forms, including those which apply to the minority languages Finnish and Sami. It is recommended that names which have been approved for use on public maps shall be used in the approved form. A parliamentary resolution on the proposals of the committee is expected in 1988.

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